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The
Command  **Run**

Vol. 2 No. 12 ■ Miami ■ Dec. 21, 2001

'Reflect on the freedoms and liberties we enjoy'

By Maj. Gen. Gary D. Speer, USA
U.S. Southern Command
Acting Commander in Chief

In celebration of this joyous season, we find that as citizens of our great nation we have so much to be thankful for. Since the terrible attacks of Sept. 11, our military forces and the forces of our coalition partners have launched a global war against terrorism. As the battlefield fighting continues, the words, "Peace on Earth, Good Will



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

During a recent award ceremony, Army Maj. Gen. Gary D. Speer wishes the entire command a safe and joyous holiday season.

Toward Men," have a greater meaning for all U.S. citizens and especially ev-

eryone attached to U.S. Southern Command.

During this

holiday season, when people of many faiths gather to celebrate their beliefs, we are reminded that freedom of expression is one of the cornerstones of our great nation that Americans cherish. What binds us together is our allegiance to the idea that people everywhere should enjoy the freedom of expression and religion.

I ask you, this holiday season, to take a moment to reflect on the freedoms and liberties

that we enjoy as a nation and for those who are fighting to defend those principles. Take this special opportunity to spend time with your family, friends, and loved ones, while celebrating the miracles of the season.

Whether you are serving our nation at home or abroad, Cathy and I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season, and a New Year filled with good health, joy, and prosperity.

‘You are the sharp sword of freedom’

By Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

This holiday season, families all across America will gather with neighbors and friends to rekindle old friendships, revive honored traditions, and renew the hope and love that is part of the season.

And as they do, their thoughts and



Donald H. Rumsfeld

prayers will naturally turn to you, the men and women whose mission it is to defend peace and freedom; especially now when they are under such unprecedented attack.

As America's Armed Forces, you

are the sharp sword of Freedom. You fight without complaint on foreign seas, in dangerous skies, and on hostile lands. You voluntarily put your lives at risk, and sacrifice your comfort and the comfort of your families, so all of our fellow citizens can enjoy the blessings and benefits of liberty.

It is a sacrifice made even more precious by the fact that you render it so willingly.

In describing the "citizen soldiers" of an earlier era, historian

Stephen Ambrose wrote, "At the core; (they) knew the difference between right and wrong, and were unwilling to live in a world in which evil triumphed. So they fought and they won, and we; and those yet to be born; are eternally grateful."

Like those heroes of an earlier era, you too stand against evil; the shadowy evil of terrorism. And like them, you also will be victorious. Of that, there is no doubt.

So as the stars

of the winter sky shine brightly, and the prayers of people everywhere who long for peace look up to meet them, know that the hearts and prayers of Americans are with you. We salute your courage, we appreciate your sacrifice, and we pray each day for your success.

On behalf of the President, the Department of Defense, and all the American people, I extend our warmest and most heartfelt wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

By Gen. Richard B. Myers
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

As 2001 draws to a close, I extend to each of you - America's outstanding soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and DoD civilians — and your families, my warmest wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season.

I am very proud of you, and deeply appreciate your selflessness, sacrifice, dedication, patriotism, and your love of our great country.

With the events of September 11 etched forever in our hearts and minds, all Americans are more grateful than ever

Reflect

'on what we hold dear'



"I am very proud of you, and deeply appreciate your selflessness, sacrifice, dedication, patriotism, and your love of our great country."

Gen. Richard B. Myers
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

for the work you do and the sacrifices you make each and every day. The citizens of this great land realize the dangers you

face defending our way of life in the war against global terrorism, and I am certain that during this special time of the

year, you are in their thoughts and prayers.

During the holidays, we will reflect on what we hold dear and spend time with those we love. Of course, many in uniform will be unable to join their families because duty will keep them in the field, at sea, or in the air. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all those in the Department of Defense serving far from home — away from family and loved ones during the holiday season.

At this special time of the year, Mary Jo joins me in sending warmest wishes for a season filled with hope, happiness and joy. All the best for the New Year.

Command Run

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Secretary Rumsfeld remembers fallen Pentagon workers

By Sgt. 1st Class
 Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
 American Forces Press
 Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 2001 — Exactly three months after a hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stood in front of the damaged military headquarters and vowed that America will not forget those killed in the attack.

“We will remember their lives,” Rumsfeld told the small crowd who braved the rain and mud to mark the moment the terrorists struck. “We will retell their stories again and again so that neither the nation nor the world ever forgets.”

“Their deaths were a clarion call to our nation,” Joint

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United

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Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said during the ceremony. “A call to once again confront the enemies of freedom, a call to once again join with friends and allies to preserve our basic values, and a call to stand united.”

Rumsfeld said that before Sept. 11 Americans were wondering where all the heroes were. Nobody wonders any more. “Today, all can see that the spirit of our nation is strong. And the heroes? We don’t have to look far to find them,” he

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Photo by Jim Garamone

An American flag hangs from a construction crane as a backdrop for a Dec. 11 ceremony commemorating the three month anniversary of the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld speaks at the podium, accompanied by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers.



Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn

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said. "On Sept. 11 they were here and in New York, pulling friends and strangers out of the fire and out of the rubble.

"And in the skies over Pennsylvania, they showed those who believed Americans would not fight back that they were

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers pay respect as the National Anthem is played.

'ready to roll.'"

American forces in Afghanistan are teaching Al Qaeda terrorists lessons they did not learn in Osama bin Laden's training camps, the secretary said.

"They're teaching (the terrorists) and all enemies of freedom that, as

President Ronald Reagan put it, 'No weapon in any arsenal in the world is as formidable as the will and the moral courage of free men and free women,'" Rumsfeld said.

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He called the damaged building being rebuilt behind him a symbol of that will and courage, and added that it will be stronger and surer than before. The rebuilt Pentagon will be “a tribute to those heroes of today and all those heroes of yesterday who now sleep beneath the hills of Arlington Cemetery and on whose shoulders we are proud to stand,” Rumsfeld said.

He also said he believes the thousands of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks here, in New York and in Pennsylvania would be proud of how the nation has come



Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn

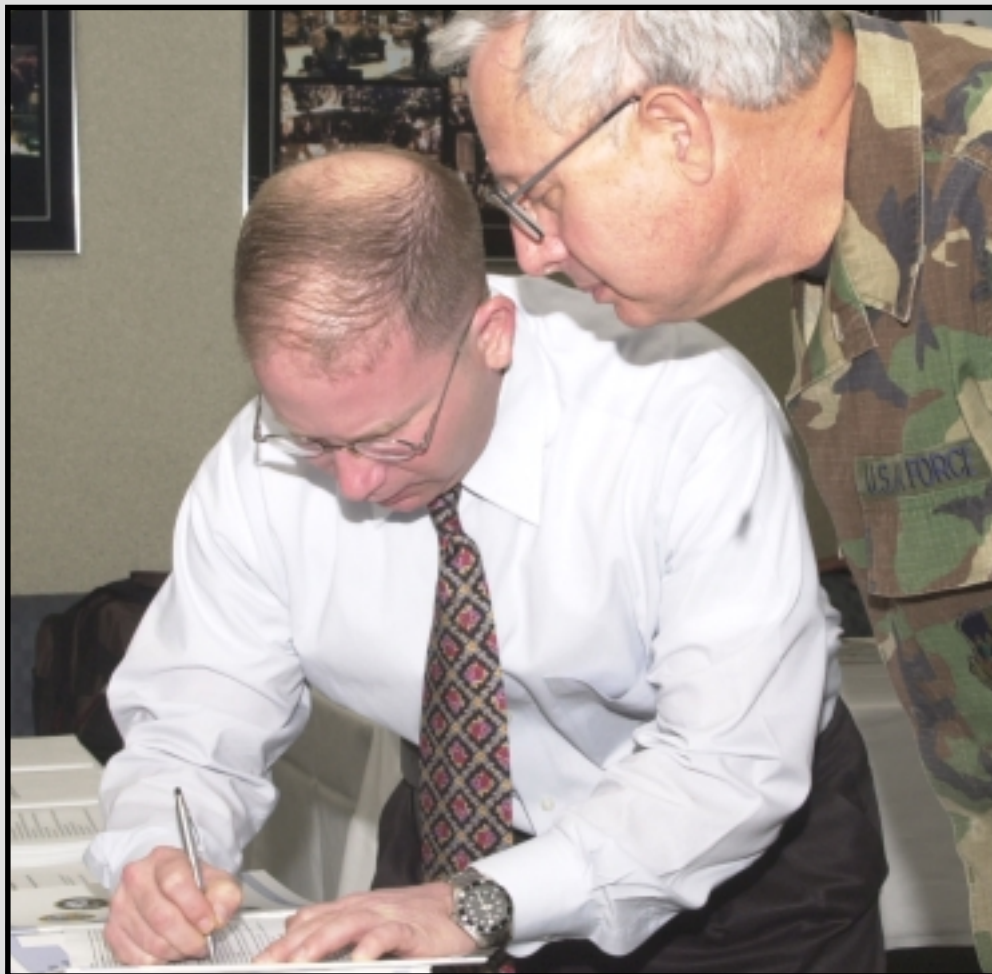
Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John M. Keane (Far left), Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper and other military and civilians pay their respects during the ceremony commemorating those killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

together in the aftermath of the tragedy.

“If they could see how our country is united to preserve freedom from ter-

ror they’d be proud, proud of our unity, proud of our strength and proud of the determination to find, root out and deal with the evil

of terrorism and those who seek to terrorize,” Rumsfeld said. “And we will.”



Information fair

Getting tools to succeed

Rich Zimmelman (Left), financial planning manager assigned to U.S. Army Garrison-Miami, explains the Military Thrift Savings Plan to Air Force Master Sgt. Mark Kaplan, J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate, during an Information Fair at the Thurman Building Tuesday.

Subject matter experts distributed information and answered questions to help give people the tools needed to take advantage of their military benefits. Subjects covered included Army Knowledge Online, common access cards, public key infrastructure, Thrift Savings Plan, and Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

(Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

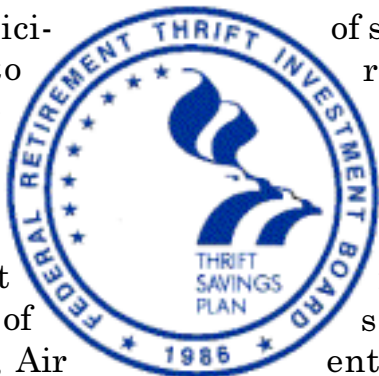
Time running out to enrolle in military TSP

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON — Service members are running out of time in the initial enrollment period to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings and investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

The TSP, administered by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, previously has been available only to federal civil-

ian employees. The fiscal 2001 Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act extended TSP participation to active duty and reserve component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system, which is based on years of service and rank.

The first enrollment window for persons who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001, began Oct. 9, 2001, and will end Jan. 31, 2002. Persons who enroll during this period will see TSP contributions deducted each month from

their pay starting in January 2002. Persons who join the uniformed services after Dec. 8, 2001, will have 60 days after entering service to enroll in the TSP.

After the special first enrollment period, service members may use two "open seasons" each year to join, quit or change the amount of their contributions. Currently, these periods are May 15 through July 31 and Nov. 15 through Jan. 31.

Military members enroll in TSP by

completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office.

Enrollment forms are available for download on the TSP Web site, <http://www.tsp.gov>, or can be obtained at local military finance offices.

Participants can invest any whole percentage of up to 7 percent of their base pay in any or all of five TSP funds:

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■ The conservative G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short-term, nonmarketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 6.74 percent.

■ The F Fund is TSP's bond market index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 7.87 percent — and 12.78 percent in the past 12 months ending July 31.

■ The C Fund is TSP's large-company U.S. stock index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 17.43 percent,

but it has reported a 14.3 percent loss in the past 12 months ending July 31.

■ The S Fund is TSP's medium and small company stock index fund. The I Fund is its international stock index fund. Both funds opened in May, so neither has a long-term track record.

Only G Fund investments and earnings are backed by the U.S. government against loss.

TSP participants risk losing some or all their investments and earnings in the F, C, S and I funds — but the funds' earning potential is unlimited.

Service members can contribute as little as 1 percent of their base pay per pay period, up to the 7 percent limit in 2002. The limit increases by 1 percent per

year until 2005, after which contributions will be limited by Internal Revenue Code guidelines.

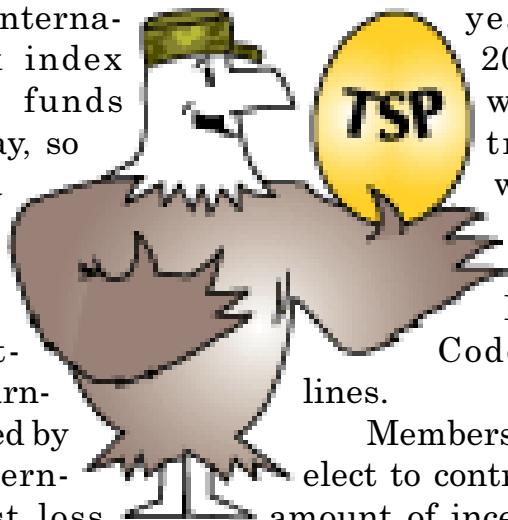
Members may also elect to contribute any amount of incentive pay or special pay, to include bonus pay.

Like civilian workers covered by the old Civil Service Retirement System, service members gen-

erally will not receive TSP matching funds from the government. One exception is troops in specialties designated critical by their service secretaries; those receiving matching funds will be obligated to serve a six-year active duty commitment.

Strict rules apply to service members' withdrawal of funds from TSP accounts before they retire. Federal and state income taxes on investments and earnings are deferred so long as the money stays in the TSP account.

Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, and early withdrawals are pe-



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nalized under some circumstances.

Military members who already have a civilian TSP account, such as past and present federal civilian employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, can open an entirely separate, second TSP account.

The 47-page booklet "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services" and other information can be found on the Web at www.tsp.gov. The booklet requires the free Adobe Acrobat reader to view.

Idea \$aves people time, hassles

**By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,
USAF**

U.S. Southern Command Public
Affairs

MIAMI – A major's good idea is finally paying off. Escort officers, who used to spend excessive amounts of time processing cumbersome financial request forms and documents, are now paying bills hassle free using the U.S. Debit Card.

The debit card technology, developed by the U.S. Treasury Department, allows command officials to easily activate or deactivate the card and issue money in any denomination. The card is disposable



The U.S. Debit Card.

or reloadable and can be used as a debit, credit or ATM card.

According to officials, because of the expertise, persistence and efforts of Army Maj. Angela Larsen, the command's J-5 Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate recently received the go-ahead to begin using the U.S. Debit Card, the first of its kind in the Depart-

ment of Defense, under a six-month pilot test.

During the test, escort officers will use the U.S. Debit Card to pay for Traditional Commander in Chief Activities, which is a fund used to interact with militaries in the command's area of operations. This fund pays for interaction conferences, subject matter expert and platoon exchanges, and direct interaction with foreign nationals, both civilian and military.

Sherry Long, deputy director of the J-5 Tradi-

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tional CINC Activities Branch, credits the tenacity of Larsen in coordinating with the Defense Accounting Center in Indianapolis, the U.S. Treasury Department, and the assistant secretary of the Army for Financial Management, and the decision to allow the U.S. Southern Command to pilot test the U.S. Debit Card.

Larsen, the assistant program director of the J-5 Traditional CINC Activities Branch, first began lobbying for the use of the card when she worked in the J-8 Programs and Resources Directorate three years



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Army Maj. Angela Larsen, J-5 Directorate, came up with the idea to participate in the U.S. Debit Card program.

ago. She realized back then that the procedures for funding paying agents were bureaucratic and unresponsive to their needs. In addition, the Interna-

tional Merchant Purchase Authorization Card, official government credit card, traveler's checks, group credit cards and other methods of payment did not fulfill the requirements of the escort officers.

The process of obtaining cash for escort officers required faxing eight different forms and documents to DFAS, and it took seven working days to put a check in the escort officer's hands. Often when these paying agents were in Central and South America, and the Caribbean, they had to rely heavily on the State Department for cash. The

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U.S. embassies staffs had limited U.S. dollar reserves. Sometimes the mission couldn't even be supported because there was no way to pay for the services when requirements would arise.

"It was an inflexible system that restricted our ability to execute theater engagement," Larsen explained. "The command's robust engagement program funds about 60 paying agents monthly. These agents escort approximately 3,000 host nation personnel annually. So this pilot program was necessary to end a reliance on an unreliable system, and to

remove an unacceptable administrative burden."

The six-month pilot test of the U.S. Debit Card began Dec. 10. At the end of the test, the program will be evaluated. Officials will assess its impact in terms of cost savings or cost increases and mission impact at DFAS, U.S. Treasury Department, U.S. Army and here at SOUTHCOM.

"Right now we don't think it will be more costly but they will have to look at all of the facts," Larsen said. "It's kind of difficult to say right now exactly what will happen after the six months. But if it is working as well as it is right now I'll tell you we're going to push to keep using it."

In the news



Chief of staff slated for second star
Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced Dec. 14 that the president has nominated Marine Brig. Gen. Richard A. Huck, U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, for appointment to the grade of major general.



Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Melinda Early
Mariah Carey pulled soldiers from the audience to help trim the tree during her visit to Camp Bondsteel Dec. 4.

Pop diva lifts spirits in Bosnia

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo (Army News Service, Dec. 7, 2001) - While helping to improve social conditions in Bosnia, Multi-National Brigade East soldiers found an American superstar that wanted to help lift their spirit for the holidays.

Pop diva Mariah Carey entertained 700 U.S. soldiers Dec. 4 at Camp Bondsteel, and then flew to three more remote military locations. Carey's trip was sponsored by the USO to increase morale among the troops who are unable to be with their families during the holiday season.

"We want to give these people a little glamour," Carey said after the tour.

During the same week of the concert members of the 504th Military

Police and the 717th Air Medical Evacuation unit provided assistance at an accident scene involving a civilian taxi and a train. The accident occurred in the city of Glavica and resulted in the seven deaths. Task Force Med Falcon also conducted three MEDCAPS. A total of 100 patients were treated.

The MNB(E) Civil Affairs units have been distributing firewood in Gnjilane to needy families and working on a water project with an organization dedicated to finding lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world.

The Gnjilane Hospital multi-ethnic clinic is still operating successfully and expansion to other municipalities is being considered, officials said. In Urosevac, the water distribution program is also operating successfully, they said.

(Editor's note: Taken from a Kosovo Forces Press Release.)

Terminally ill tots receive holiday joys, toys

By Chief Petty Officer Gabe Puello, USN
Command Run Assistant Editor

Miami -- More than 25 command volunteers visited the Jackson Memorial Hospital pediatric ward Sunday to deliver Christmas cheer and toys to every child interned in the hospital during the holidays.

Over 75 critically-ill children were Christmas caroled and given toys donated by the Hearing Research Institute of Miami.

The SOUTHCOM volunteers included Cathy Speer, wife of the acting commander in chief, Cathy Huck, wife of the chief of

staff, and various other members of the Southern Command family. They were accompanied and assisted by members of the Lions Club of Miami, American Legion, and the Association of United States Army. The large group was led by Ruth Ann Mitchell, Child Life Coordinator, through all the pediatric wards and floors at the hospital.

Singing Carols from the patient's doorways, unable to enter due to the gravity of their conditions.

"While our first mission is to help deaf and hard

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Photo by Air Force Capt. Tom Crosson

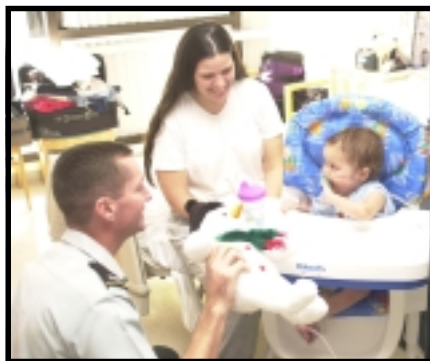
Army Sgt. Samuel Taylor and Seaman (since promoted to petty officer 3rd class) Nichole Solberg hands gifts to a young patient during a visit by U.S. Southern Command personnel to Jackson Memorial Hospital Sunday.

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of hearing children, we cannot stand idly by and not help others in need. To that purpose, in addition to the gifts to all children at (the hospital), we are giving 50 AM/FM radios with head sets to children and teens at nine homes for abused and abandoned children run by the Children's Home Society," said Col. (Dr.) Robert Pickard, Florida National Guard.

This is the third year U.S. Southern Command has participated in this partnership of giving with the Hearing Research Institute. Leftover toys from the Christmas Holidays are



Army Chief Warrant Officer Jimmy Soucheck hands a doll to a young girl at Jackson Memorial Hospital during a visit by personnel and family members of the command. This is the third year U.S. Southern Command has participated with other organizations in this partnership of giving with the Hearing Research Institute.

later given to children during the Easter holiday season.



Photos by Air Force Capt. Tom Crosson
Eon Pereira, an employee at U.S. Southern Command, hands a gift to a young boy at Jackson Memorial Hospital Sunday. More than 25 command volunteers visited the hospital's pediatric ward Sunday to deliver Christmas cheer. In addition, over 75 critically-ill children were Christmas caroled and given toys donated by the Hearing Research Institute of Miami.

News briefs

Separating?

If you are within 180 days of separation or within one year of retirement, there is a mandatory pre-separation briefing 2:30 to 4 p.m. Jan. 9 and 11 at the Education Center at the Codina Building located at 8300 NW 33rd Street in Miami.

This briefing is a prerequisite for the four-day Transition Assistance Program workshops that are held quarterly (The next one is Jan. 28-

31). For more information, call Michela Barrow at (305) 437-2665 or 2632.

BX shuttle

The U.S. Southern Command runs a shuttle from the Thurman Building north entrance to the Homestead Air Reserve Station BX Mart every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and returns when all patrons are done shopping or conducting business, which is no later than 2:30 p.m. The shuttle is for all military and civil ser-

vice personnel. Family members can also utilize the shuttle to Homestead.

TAP workshop

The next transition assistance program workshop is Jan. 28-31 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the La Quinta Hotel, 8730 NW 27th Street. For more information or to sign up call (305) 437-2671 or 2726.

Newcomers

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a newcomers

briefing 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

The briefing includes presentations from the TRICARE representative; SOUTHCOM Health Clinic; Housing Office; Traffic Management Office; Education Office; Legal Office; Quality of Life Office; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; DoD Police; and chaplain. For more

information or to reserve your seat at the briefing, call (305) 437-2667.

Miami tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring its monthly Miami area tour 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 18.

The tour is free to military personnel and their families. The tour begins and ends at the Codina Building, Suite 110, at 8300 NW 33 Street. For more in-

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formation or to sign up for the tour, call (305) 437-2665.

Finance class

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a basic personal finance class 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

The class covers subjects such as banking, budgeting, credit, debt reduction, mutual funds and insurance. This is an introductory class designed for junior personnel and family members. For more information or to sign up for

the class, call (305) 437-2665.

Zip Code meetings

The Zip Code Coffee Groups meetings allow spouses to meet other spouses and exchange ideas, babysitters, places to go, best bargains, best doctors, and more.

Call the following coordinators to get involved:

In Kendall, Hammocks, Central Dade and South Dade, call Missy Whiddon at (305) 971-3131 or Linda Payne at (786) 242-9249.

In Weston, Davie, Plantation, Fort Lauderdale, Coral Springs and North, call Harriot Johnston at (954) 385-2296.

In Pembroke Pines,

Cooper City, Hollywood, Miramar, call Melissa Badami at (954) 443-7732.

In Doral and North Dade, Gabriela Scott at (305) 468-8947.

Free admission

Active duty military, and reservists and retirees with activation orders, are receiving unlimited complimentary admission to Anheuser-Busch amusement parks until Dec. 31. In addition, immediate family members receive a complimentary admission on the first visit.

After the first visit, admission for immediate family members and guests will be discounted by 25 percent.

This offer is valid dur-

ing regular park operating hours. Simply present a military ID to get admission into SeaWorld in Orlando, San Antonio or San Diego; Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay or Williamsburg; and Sesame Place in Philadelphia.

This offer does not include Water Country or Discovery Cove.

Anheuser-Busch Companies hope, in some small way, this begins to send the multitude of thanks to military personnel who put their lives on the line each and every day.

Tax information

The 1099-R forms for

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Honor Roll

Command, staff college selections

Congratulations to the following officers who were on the Army's 2001 Command and Staff College Selection Board List released Dec. 13:

- Maj. Mario A. Arzeno, J-3
- Maj. Samuel A. Sblendorio, JIATF-East
- Maj. Robert R. Schmidt, J-5
- 1st Lt. (Capt. promotable) Roderick J. Hammond, SCDC
- Maj. Jose L. Muniz, Bolivia
- Maj. David P. Fitchitt, SOCSO

Air Force command selection

Congratulations to the following officer who was on the Air Force's Colonel Command Selection Board Release Tuesday:

- Col. O. G. Mannon, SOCSO

Enlisted members of the quarter

Congratulations to the following enlisted members of the quarter for the fourth quarter 2001:

- Senior Enlisted Category: Army Sgt. Wendy Rabias, J-2
- Junior Enlisted Category: Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Nichole Solberg, J-2

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tax year 2001 will be mailed to the home address on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service by Jan. 15, 2002 to all Department of Defense military retirees and annuitants.

Retirees or annuitants that do not get their 1099-Rs by Jan. 31, 2002, have questions about their 1099-R forms, or need to update mailing addresses should contact DFAS at **(800) 321-1080**, Monday through Friday, between 7 and 7:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Be prepared to provide social security number, date of retirement, and cur-

rent mailing address.

Market yourself

The next Market Yourself for a Second Career Seminar is 9 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 22 at the Metro Dade Fire Fighters Memorial Building located at 8000 NW 21st Street. This free professional lecture is designed for officers and senior NCOs leaving the service within one to five years. Enlisted military personnel, spouses, civilians and family members are also invited to attend. Topics covered include job searches, networking, successful interviews and salary negotiations and benefit packages. Call the Family Support Center at **(305) 437-2665** to sign up.

Santa visits for old fashion ‘ho ho ho’ down



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
(Left to right) SOUTHCOM's Own' Navy Lt. Cmdr. Amelia Sweeney, Navy Cmdr. Kelley Spellman, and Air Force Maj. Deborah Crowder, all from the J-2 Intelligence Directorate, entertain the command with several seasonal songs at the command's holiday party Dec. 14.

See more photos on page 22



(Above) Santa Claus gives Brig. Gen. Richard Huck a little gift for being “nice” this year. Santa was not so nice to other officers in the command during the holiday party.



Santa gives Cathy Speer her favorite beverage.



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

A caterer serves up turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy... all the fixings for the holiday season, to members of the U.S. Southern Command during a holiday party under a tent in the parking lot Dec. 14.



(Above) Julia Ramos, Army Signal Activity, shakes a set of maracas to the salsa beat.



(Above) Army Sgt. Maj. Lopez, J-3 Operations Directorate, and Air Force Senior Airman Roxana Pagán Sánchez dance to the beat of the music.



(Left) A group of people migrated from the holiday party to a nearby bohio to sing their favorite salsa tunes and enjoy each other's company.

Santa says... 'So be good for goodness sake'



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Miriam Lopez (Left) encourages Aurelis (Second from left), 6, and her sister Audri, 4, to smile for the camera. They are the children of Danny and Auri Rodriguez. Santa Claus visited the U.S. Southern Command Children's Christmas party at Dave & Busters Tuesday and encouraged all the kids to be good.



Carlos D. Peralta, 2, sits on his daddy's shoulders while fishing for a prize at the command's Christmas party. Carlos F. Peralta, his wife Army Capt. Ana Peralta, and their son played games and saw Santa Claus.



These boys manipulate an amusement game's joy sticks in Dave & Buster's Game Room.

See more photos on page 24



(Above) Army Sgt. 1st Class Paula J. Daniels, Protocol Office, reads the Christmas Story Book to children waiting to see Santa Claus Tuesday at Dave & Busters.

(Left) Kim Lowry, U.S. Southern Command Congressional Affairs director, holds her son Patrick, while he gets some chicken nuggets from the Dave & Busters chef.



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Maximo DeSosa, J-3 Operations Directorate, watches his daughter Gabriela, 7, as she rides a Sega motorcycle video game at Dave & Busters Tuesday during the command's children Christmas party. The kids enjoyed good food, games, and time spent with Saint Nick. Each kid even received a present, compliments of the jolly man's elves and the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Inc.

Command delivers presents, spreads holiday cheer

By Chief Petty Officer Gabe Puello, USN
Command Run Assistant Editor

MIAMI -- A host of U.S. Southern Command volunteers teamed up with The Children's Home Society and Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization to present needy children with presents for the holidays Dec. 12 at three Miami area high schools.

This event was advertised throughout the command as the "Angel Christmas Tree Project," whereby SOUTHCOM servicemen and women as well



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Santa Claus (Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Martha Ruiz) gives a gift to a girl at a holiday party for needy children held at Miami-Jackson Senior High School Dec. 12.

as civilian employees sponsored a child with a present for the event by signing their names to one of a number of angels hanging from the tree in the main

conference room foyer area. Publix donated the tree, where the angels were placed. In addition, Robin Woodward and Felix Peguero, Army Signal Activity Graphics, donated their time and energy towards creating the angels and posters alongside the tree.

The presents were then delivered to Miami Northwestern Senior High School, Miami Carol City Senior High School and Miami Jackson Senior High School, bringing bright, happy smiles to the children's faces. There were at least six military volunteers in uniform for each

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school. Cathy Speer, wife of the Acting Commander in Chief, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Valentino Sanchez, acting command sergeant major, participated in the Miami Jackson Sr. High School party while Cathy Huck, wife of the chief of staff, participated in the Miami Carol City Senior High School event.

More than “200 gifts were collected and distributed to inner city foster children at the three

schools that sponsored the parties. These children who participated in the event all come from broken homes and to receive this gift of love and a free Christmas dinner with all the trimmings is a great benefit to these mostly financially strapped individuals,” said Maria Mena, a social worker with Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Greater Miami.

Each van-load of military personnel contained a Santa

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Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Latorsha Petry gets acquainted with a baby boy Dec. 12 while attending the Children's Home Society and Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization party at Miami-Jackson Senior High School. The volunteers gave needy children presents for the holidays.

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Claus to hand out the gifts of toys to the children, along with gift packs of cookies baked by SOUTHCOM volunteers. Elaine Kalaidis, Eloise Elmer and Petty Officers 1st Class Rachel Parks, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, and Dontay Johnson, J-2, baked cookies and cup cakes while Petty Officer 2nd Class Martha Ruiz, and Seaman Steven Hays, J-2, served as resident Santas.

“Other volunteer groups and individuals within the command such as The Ladies Coffee Group, ASA Personnel, Cheri Hunter, Eloise Elmer, Ariadne Montalvo, Evelyn Alcover, Publix, Maj. Donna Dwaine, and Betty Wiley were highly instrumental in making this gift of giving a success,” said Blanquita Chastain, Public Affairs Community Relations chief.



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Army Sgt. Mayline Vargas, J-8 Programs and Resources Directorate, helps a boy carry his present to his seat shortly after his visit with Santa Claus at Miami-Jackson Senior High School Dec. 12.



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Gabe Puello
Cathy Speer (Second from right) led the group of volunteers at Miami Northwestern Senior High School.



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Gabe Puello
Col. Ronald Williams gives a gift to a girl. He volunteered at the last minute to play Santa at the Miami Northwestern Senior High School location.

Cadets win 26-17 in Army-Navy classic

By Joe Burlas

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Dec. 3, 2001) — While it is a long standing truism in sports that you need a good offense to win, Army had great help from its defensive unit in its 26-17 win over Navy in Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium Dec. 1.

The Black Knight defense, led by senior linebacker Brian Zickefoose and freshman Ardell Daniels, severely limited Navy access to the end zone —



Navy defensive back Lenter Thomas attempts to intercept a pass intended for Army's Anthony Miller during the first quarter.

keeping Navy scores mostly to field goals despite an Army fumble and four intercepted passes. "I'm a senior and it feels great to know that my class came in with a (Army-Navy)

win and is going out with a win," said Cadet Todd Hieldebrant, who watched the game with the rest of the Corps of Cadets from stadium seating.

"While the win feels great, I was most impressed with all the civilians who came out to watch the game. Whether they came to root for Army or for Navy, it's nice to see them supporting the military."

President George W. Bush attended the

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Army running back Ardeell Daniels (34) runs for a 60-yard touchdown in the first quarter of the 102nd Army-Navy game Dec. 1 in Philadelphia.

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game and conducted the coin toss at the start of the game. Navy won the toss and elected to receive.

Navy's luck didn't last long. Starting on the Navy 28-yard line after the kickoff, Zickefoose caught Navy quarterback Ed Malinowski in the backfield for a 2-yard loss on the first offensive play of the game. Army linebacker Ryan Kent batted down a 10-yard pass on the next play. Despite a successful 8-yard pass, Navy couldn't convert for the first down.

Five plays into Army's first offensive series, running back Ardeell Daniels scooted up the middle for 60 yards and the first touchdown of the game and the young freshman's collegiate career. Kicker Derek Jacobs' kick was good for a 7-0 Army lead.

Strong Army defense held Navy to just five plays with no points on

board from the next Midshipmen offensive attempt.

Army scored again on its second drive downfield. From the Navy 42, quarterback Chad Jenkins nailed wide receiver Brian Brueton with a deep pass and another six points. The extra kick missed and Army remained on top, 13-0.

Five minutes later, Navy defensive back Paul Clark picked off an Army pass and returned it to the Navy 35. Cadet defensive tight end Seth Langston helped keep the Midshipmen at bay and to just four plays with a 4-yard sack to end the first quarter.

Driving down to the Army 29 on the next Navy possession, the Midshipmen were stopped cold at the 27-yard line. Navy kicker David Hill booted the pigskin through the up-

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rights for a 13-3 score.

In the last minute of the half, Cadet wide receiver Anthony Miller blocked a Navy punt and Daniels recovered it on the Navy 20. With only five seconds before halftime, Jacobs nailed the field goal. Army led, 16-3.

The Cadets started the second half with a bang. Army wide receiver Omari Thompson fielded the kickoff from the Army 4-yard line. Speed and



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Rautio

West Point cadets cheer on their team. Army clobbered the Navy Midshipmen 26-17 in front of a record crowd of more than 67,000.

artful dodging took Thompson 96 yards to the end zone for a score. The extra point was good and Army held a dominating lead, 23-3

Navy could only respond with two

field goals in the third quarter as the Cadet defense denied the Midshipmen the red zone.

With a little more than 10 minutes left in the game, Navy intercepted an-

other Army pass. Not able to move more than 6 yards during the drive, Navy faked a punt and Daniels nailed the Navy runner for a six-yard loss.

With a little more three minutes left, Army scored its final points - a field goal. Army continued to dominate, 26-9.

Two Navy passes, with less than 30 seconds left, were good for a Navy touchdown and two-point conversion. It wasn't enough. Army won, 26-17.

"To me, the meaning of Army-Navy game is not

about the competition itself, but about two great institutions coming together on the football field," Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John M. Keane said. "You have to remember that every player on that field has taken an oath to serve this great nation. When you remember that sworn duty each has voluntarily undertaken, the meaning of the game transcends who wins or loses."

Army leads the 102-game classic series 49-46-1. Army ended the season 3-8; Navy, 0-10.

Command's anglers get hooked by Rod & Reel Club

By Steve Tunstall & Chief Petty Officer
Gabe Puello, USN
U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs

The stories of “the one that got away” abounded as the Rod and Reel Club of Miami hosted over 40 U.S. Southern Command servicemen and women to a day of offshore fishing December 8.

This is the 4th time this event has been hosted by the boat captains of the Rod and Reel Club of Miami, located at Hibiscus Island, Miami Beach.

Almost every angler caught at least one fish during this tourney where the enlisted and the officers would compete to catch the largest sailfish, with the losers manning the grills for the post tourney fish-fry.

On this beautifully sunny



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Gabe Puello
The crew of the SS Minnow, also known as the “Pineapple,” with Captain Benjamin Artz at the helm, show off their catch. Jes Flores caught a 16-pound Mahi-Mahi; Jim Dominick a 10-pound Mahi-Mahi; and Lothar Einsfeld, a 6-pound Mahi-Mahi.

South Florida morning, the anglers had to contend with 20 knot winds and a sharp 3 to 5 foot chop which

had a few of the anglers riding the rails. The good news is that the fish were cooperative and four sailfish were released along with a good number of dolphin and a few kingfish. , Lothar Einsfeld, Garrison DCA caught a 6 lbs. Mahi-Mahi while Maj. Jim Dominick, SCEN and Jes Flores, Garrison DOL, also caught 10 lbs. and 16 lbs. Mahi-Mahi's respectively while aboard the “Pineapple” captained by Ben Artz.

“As the day progressed and more and more fish were caught, the spirit of competition was tempered with the good vibes of the day and we just dispensed with the whole competition thing and fished for the fun of it,” said Einsfeld.

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Boat captains George Levassar, Barry Schugar, Larry Reeder, Bob Chitty, Zack Green, Jaime Artze, Tony Shultz and Steve Roadruck along with mates Ronnie Schatzman, Ross Reeder, Jenny Green, Geoff Pearson and Al Piazza, provided the SOUTHCOM anglers with the use of their boats for the nominal fee of \$20, added Einsfeld.

Captain Mike Jimenez, despite

being out of town on business, donated his boat and Captain Glenn Gordon and Elliot Abbot brought over by Conrad Weber and Ben Dorsan who fished with Mike Ruth who are not yet Rod and Reel Club members but graciously donated their boats for the effort.

“Given the recent events of 9-11 it’s a good thing to do something for the folks who wear the uniforms,” said Steve Tunstall, Rod and Reel Club Tournament Director.



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Gabe Puello

Several U.S. Southern Command anglers reel in their catch while deep-sea fishing off the coast of Miami Dec. 8. Almost every angler caught at least one fish during this tourney where the enlisted and the officers competed to catch the largest sailfish, with the losers manning the grills for the post tourney fish-fry.

Sgt. Lisa Caron



Service: U.S. Army

Organization:

J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans

Directorate Requirements

Branch

Duty title:

Administration NCO

Time in service: 15 years

Hometown: Manhattan, N.Y.

Hobbies: Artwork, paintings on glass

Favorite duty station: U.S. Southern Command

Career highlights: Graduating from 1997 Intelligence School at Fort Bragg, N.C., and completing the Professional Leadership Development Class

Carlos F. Rivera



Service: Civilian

Organization: Army Signal Activity Help Desk

Duty title: Staff analyst

Time in service: 5 years

Hometown: Caguas, Puerto Rico

Hobbies: Spending time with friends and family, boating, biking and shopping

Favorite duty station: Only

place I've been... U.S. Southern Command

Career highlights: Community service... it makes me feel good that other people realize how important helping others really is

Holiday spirit

Air Force Brig. Gen. Bishop, J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate director, and Army Sgt. Lisa Caron get into the spirit of the season by donning “Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer” nose gear at the J-5 holiday social Wednesday. The J-5 directorate socialized together and enjoyed partaking from a buffet of culinary delights. (Courtesy photo)

